

**UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**AND**  
**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

City of Sterling, CO  
421 N 4th St, PO Box 4000  
Sterling, CO 80751-0400

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comment on a proposal by the Region 8 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act and UIC program regulations, a Major Modification to a UIC Class I Non-Hazardous Waste Area Injection Well Permit to the City of Sterling, Colorado (Sterling), EPA permit number CO12163-00000 for the operation of two injection wells drilled to a depth of 7,195 feet below land surface:

**Permit No. CO12163-00000**

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>UIC Well ID</b>	<b>Proposed Location</b>
Sterling Deep Disposal Well No. 1	CO12163-08741	390 FSL, 1020 FWL, S27, T8N, R52W, Logan County, CO
Sterling Deep Disposal Well No. 2	CO12163-08742	1200 FNL, 1380 FEL, S27, T8N, R52W, Logan County, CO

**Potential Impact to Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs)**

No impact to USDWs is anticipated to occur as a result of the operation of the Sterling wells following this Major Modification.

**Background**

Sterling was originally issued an area UIC permit for the construction and operation of two injection wells disposing concentrate from Sterling's Reverse Osmosis water treatment plant. This permit specified the permitted injection zones and requirements for logging and testing of the wells.

Subsequent to construction and testing, EPA intends to modify the original permit with updated information gathered during the drilling and testing phases of the two wells. The changes are to be made as follows:

1. Add one injection formation that was identified during testing as having greater than 10,000 mg/l Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) content;
2. Increase the Maximum Allowable Injection Pressure (MAIP) based on the results of the Step Rate and Pressure Fall-off tests conducted on the wells after they were drilled;
3. Update the Construction and Plugging plans and schematic drawings with as-built well construction information.

**Additional Injection Formation**

Originally, the Lytle Formation in the interval between 4,648 ft. and 4,854 ft. was thought to be an underground source of drinking water (USDW) containing less than 10,000 mg/l TDS. During the testing of Sterling Well No. 1, this zone was sampled and the TDS content was determined to be 11,600 mg/l, allowing it to be used as a disposal formation. This formation is confined by the overlying Skull Creek Shale in the interval between 4,512 ft. and 4,648 ft. which will prevent injected fluids from moving into the USDWs above.

**Increase MAIP**

The original MAIP was set conservatively at 1487 psi. Results of well tests conducted on the Sterling wells following their construction show that pressures up to 2,200 psi can be safely used in each of the wells without fracturing the injection formations.

**Construction and Plugging Plans**

These plans and schematics were modified to reflect the as-built well components and the actual depths of the formations encountered during drilling.

**Public Comments**

The requirements and conditions of the Draft Permit Modification are tentative, and are open to comment from any interested party. Persons wishing to comment upon or object to any aspect of proposal are invited to submit comments, IN WRITING, within 30 days of this notice to:

Chuck Tinsley  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mailcode: 8P-W-GW  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Telephone: 1-800-227-8917 ext. 312-6266

The Administrative Record, including the application, the Draft Permit Modification and Statement of Basis prepared by the EPA, and public comments received, is available for public inspection at the above location(s) weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Draft Permit Modification and Statement of Basis will also be available on the Region 8 UIC webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/uic>

**Public Hearing**

Within the thirty (30) day period, any interested person may request a public hearing as provided by 40 CFR §124.12. A request for a hearing must be made IN WRITING to the above address and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held only if significant interest is shown.

**Final Permit Condition**

All comments received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the Final decision. The decision may be to: issue, modify, or deny the Permit Modification. The Final decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after issuance unless no commenters requested changes to the Draft Permit Modification, in which case the Permit Modification shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

**Appeals**

Within thirty (30) days after a Final decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the Draft decision or who participated in a public hearing may petition the Administrator to review the final decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing may petition for administrative review only to the extent of the changes from the Draft to the Final decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR §§ 124.15 through 124.20 for procedural requirements of the appeal process.

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Date of Publication